

OHIO.

HER ROMANTIC AND STIRRING STORY.

THE STORY OF OHIO. By Alexander Black. 8vo. pp. 320. Boston: D. Lothrop Company. Illustrations by L. J. Bridgman.

To compress within some 300 pages even an intelligible sketch of the history of Ohio is something of a literary feat, and to make such a sketch interesting is still more difficult. Mr. Black, however, has succeeded in doing this, and his book is all the more welcome and valuable because of the comparative scarcity of general histories of the Buckeye State. In the nature of the conditions this compact volume must be looked to for general rather than detailed information, but for popular use and even reference it is well adapted. The early history of Ohio is of the deepest interest, not only as a study in State-making, but as a mine of the most picturesque, romantic and stirring episodes. Though many of these are but outlined by Mr. Black, his brief accounts of them are graphic enough to stimulate and guide the reader's imagination, and to enable him to follow the fortunes of the bold pioneers who, taking their lives in their hands, pushed the boundaries of the Republic westward and opened a new and magnificent region to agriculture, commerce and freedom.

The vital importance of the Ordinance of 1787 to the destinies of Ohio is properly emphasized by Mr. Black. To that ordinance probably more than to any other agency must be ascribed the great services which the State rendered the Union in the War of Secession. It was the ordinance which determined the character of that popular spirit which, first manifested through the practical protests against slavery, appearing in the shape of the "Underground Railroad," found final fruition in the splendid outbreak of loyalty and devotion evoked by the firing on Fort Sumter and the events following that initial overt act of treason. Toward the close of the volume the author marshals the brilliant array of Ohio men who have distinguished themselves in public life and private enterprise. There have been plenty of good-natured chaffs on the seeming insistence with which Ohio men push themselves to the front everywhere, but perhaps the causes of this phenomenon have not been sufficiently studied.

An obvious explanation is, of course, the character of the emigration by which the State was settled. The Ohio pioneers were undoubtedly picked people from the outset. Large numbers of Revolutionary soldiers, men of exceptional vigor and energy, as proved by their Eastern experience, found their way to the banks of the Ohio. They were reinforced by sturdy sons of New-England and stalwart hunters and mountaineers. In the new territory their training and discipline were continued through the vicissitudes of a long Indian warfare, and thus were developed and fostered those virtues and capacities which have always proved most influential in giving character and force to communities. Then, too, though the climate of the Ohio Valley was not free from extremes, it proved much milder than that of New-England, and put no obstacles in the way of physical development. New-England contributed abundantly of her peculiar endowments to the making of the new State, moreover. In regard to local government, Ohio struck a mean between the township system and the county plan of the South, but retained all that was necessary to maintain the law of autonomy, the regard for equity and order, the respect for law, and the affection for the Union which characterized her Eastern pioneers.

There is another phase of her growth in which perhaps New-England tendencies—modified by the new environment—may be traced. We refer to the curious and most interesting efflorescence of religious sentiment which, during the early youth of the State, produced such remarkable phenomena. Revivalism in the West is a subject deserving of careful and exhaustive study. It was accompanied in Ohio and the neighboring States by manifestations which are probably best attributed to the incidence of superabundant vitality upon a deep foundation of spiritual emotion. This union produced an efflux of energy which took form in physical convulsions of a contagious character. In the phenomena of the "Jerkers," briefly alluded to by Mr. Black, may be recognized an outbreak analogous to those which so perplexed Europe in the middle ages; but while the European religious epidemics persist through centuries, the Ohio outbreaks were ephemeral, showing that there the intellectual force dominated the emotional. Energy in all forms has indeed been the leading characteristic of Ohio from the beginning, and because of this, there is no State the history of whose development offers more striking illustrations of swift transition and progress.

It is not to be concluded that the prosperity of the Buckeye State is entirely due to one or two causes, however. Other States have been blessed with as good material for settlement, but Ohio has been retarded by influences from which Ohio was fortunately free. Distance in some of the character of the land in others, have been important factors. The geographical position of Ohio is a point of incalculable importance in her development, for one thing. But it certainly is the fact that her people have availed themselves fully of all their natural and acquired advantages, and that they have at all times proved themselves equal to whatever emergencies arose. It is also worthy of remark that the progress of the State has been singularly even and harmonious. Its material growth has not been retarded at the expense of its intellectual. Like a thoroughly healthy youth, until a thoroughly balanced equilibrium is reached, Ohio has produced steadily a supply of mind not less noteworthy than her material accretions.

The salient lines of this instructive and suggestive history are carefully drawn by Mr. Black, who has added considerably to the reference value of his book by a chronological table, a bibliographical list and a full index. It remains only to notice the illustrations of Mr. L. J. Bridgman, which are, while not of equal merit, in several cases spirited and excellent.

LIFE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A PESSIMISTIC NOVEL.

THE STORY OF AN AFRICAN FARM. BY RALPH HUGH (Olive Schreiner). 16mo. pp. 375. Boston: Roberts Brothers.

This is not a novel as novels are commonly composed. It represents the theories of no literary school. It is, indeed, both Realistic and Idealistic, but not in the ordinary acceptance of those terms. It is dual: a study in objective life, and a study in subjective life; in short, that seemingly impossible phenomenon, a realistic psychological novel. The scene is laid in South Africa, on an ostrich farm situated on an interminable plain of red earth, treeless, almost shrubless, where the fierce heat makes the air quiver all through the long summer and during the wet season the rain and wind have full sweep. Nature is all around. The children, two girls and a boy, are strongly differentiated. One of the girls, Lyndall, has a strong and aspiring soul. The other is a commonplace but faithful and loving little creature. The boy Lyndall is the thinker of the history, and it is his psychological growth that is analyzed and described with marvellous insight, sympathy and power.

The philosophy is that of the Persian Omar Khayyam. One almost hears the old Astronomer Poet in the melancholy cynicism of the author's refrain: "We are no other than a moving row Of Magic Shadow-shapes that come and go Round this Sun-illumined Lantern held In Midnight by the Master of the Show."

"Impotent Powers of the Game He plays"

Upon this Chequer-board of Nights and Days; Hither and thither moves, and checks, and slays, And one by one back in the Closet lays.

In the deep and sombre solo-westings and musings of the self-contained by Waldo one is constantly reminded of Tennyson's poem "Supposed confessions of a second-rate, sensitive mind not in unity with itself." This soul passes in and out through the same stages of agony and faith and doubt which Matthew Arnold has so vividly represented in the magnificent soliloquy, "The Poet as Poet," but it does not attain the height reached by the Greek sage. In Waldo, however, we have not the Man of Action but the Man of Thought alone. He cannot reconcile himself with Life because a field for his activity is unattainable. Under other conditions he would have developed into a Poet, and the gloom of his solitary world would have passed off in the relief of expression. But he is unfitted by his cultureless adolescence for the world's work. Brought up as a hermit, the life of the anchorite is the only one for which he has any vocation, and he squanders the resources of a fine mind as a flower wastes its perfume and beauty upon a desert. This of course is represented as the irony of Fate or Chance by the author, who it must be said seems scarcely capable of perceiving the brighter aspects of life. It may indeed be that life on an African farm tends to strengthen pessimist tendencies and to obliterate optimism, though on general principles one would be inclined to doubt this. In the present case, however, it is undeniable that we find only vivid forms of melancholy, and that Waldo and Lyndall and Eve might be strangled in the "City of Dreadful Night."

The study of Lyndall is a strong piece of analysis, but the girl remains a mystery to the end. Her ambition appears to be wholly material and she is strangely wanting in moral sensibility. The misfortune under which she sinks are mainly her own work. In her yearning after power of some kind she employs the most reckless methods of attainment. Her sad and short career is the wild effort of a wholly undisciplined and inexperienced mind after freedom; a fluttering and beating of the bars in that prison-house of environment from which there is so little prospect or possibility of escape.

It is a sad book with a sad ending; and yet it must not be concluded that it is in any way dull. There is power throughout it: power not only of analysis, but of observation. Its realism is instinct with life. Its people are not marionettes, but living men and women and children. Occasionally the carefulness and minuteness of detail remind the reader of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky. The descriptions of the African farm life and of the aspects of Nature on the veldt strike one as pictures which have been burned in upon the brain of the writer through years of monotonous repetition. The habitual reverie which is Waldo's normal state, and which is due quite as much to want of contact with his kind as to natural disposition, seems to have been the condition most familiar to the author, too. Nothing can exceed the keenness of her perception, when she addresses herself to the description of real life, but at every opportunity she appears to sink back, as with a sigh of relief, into the dreamy mental state in which Waldo passes his life.

The pessimism of Olive Schreiner too is peculiar. At the first glance it may be thought one with the pessimism which springs directly from the materialism of the higher modern culture; but it is not the same. It is that which is born of the unguided efforts of bold and vigorous minds to solve the problems of life with the aid of external observation alone. It is the pessimism of the Book of Job rather than that of Schopenhauer; a faithful reflection of the despondency which is apt to steal upon those who seek to wrest from Nature the secrets of the universe. There is nothing new in these questionings, or in the effects of their fruitfulness upon the human mind, but the old tragedy never loses its interest, the venerable problems never cease to fascinate.

LITERARY NOTES.

Mr. Froude doesn't allow advancing years and his many literary labors to weigh too heavily upon him. He believes in play, and has been having a lazy vacation tour about Norway. He has just returned to his dark brown, robust, sunburned and comfortable in his mind.

A contributor to "The Nation" quotes Mr. Whittier as saying that his early ambition was to become a prominent politician, and from this idea he has been persuaded only by the earnest appeals of his friends. "Taking their advice," adds the writer, "he united with the persecuted and obscure sect of Abolitionists, and to this cause, he said, he attributed all his after-success in life. Then, turning to me and laying his hand on my shoulder, he remarked, in his gentle voice: 'You had better not do that, my boy. You are a very unpopular but noble cause.' This youth afterward sent to Mr. Whittier some little verses, and received from the poet a note which ended thus: 'I would not advise thee to publish much for the present. In two or three years much will have been gained by thee. Study, experience, close observation of nature, and a broader knowledge of verse will do a great deal for thee.' 'Would, however, advise thee to depend upon poetry. A profession or trade is needed; but brave work must be done in a world of need and suffering.'

Dr. Furness says that the "possible new play by Shakespeare," lately discussed by English papers, is nothing more nor less than George Chapman's "Blind Beggar of Alexandria."

Some old reminiscences of Harriet Coleridge are given by Canon Butler in "Longmans." "How he came by his outward garments," says the Canon, "I cannot say. They were certainly not made for him. He usually wore a long-tailed dress coat, made for a tall man, and which he wore with a very loose, battered straw hat, better suited for a poet in Northumbria than a 'tall-bog' for a poet and philosopher. He was little more than five feet in height, with a stoop in his shoulders, long unkempt hair, and bright eyes. When conversing with others he liked to walk up and down the room, suddenly pausing from time to time, and peering into the face of one or other of his hearers. It was a habit of his, for the gravity of any one, and far too much for that of any one, who was obliged to leave the room to avoid laughing in Harriet's face. Endless stories were told of him, some of them being very humorous. One evening he was expected at tea by the Greens. They waited a long time, but Harriet did not make his appearance. At last, about eight o'clock, he came, looking very tired, and with a very pale face. 'Where have you been?' asked Mrs. Green, 'where have you been?' 'We have waited for you ever so long, till we could wait no longer; but never mind, you shall have some fresh tea, and then tell us what you have been doing. Have you been all by yourself?' 'No, I have been in very pleasant company.' 'Well, we are glad to hear that, but who were your companions?' 'The "devil" (he said, as pronounced, "Bless me, Mr. Coleridge, where was he, and what was he doing?") 'He was in Grasmere Churchyard, sitting on a tombstone, reading a rich man's will. It began with the usual formula, and it went on to say, 'Whereas, my eldest son John has disobeyed my orders, and entered the army instead of going into business; and whereas, my second son Robert has married a penniless pauper; and whereas, my third son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my fourth son, Thomas, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my fifth son, Henry, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my sixth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my seventh son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my eighth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my ninth son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my tenth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my eleventh son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my twelfth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my thirteenth son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my fourteenth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my fifteenth son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my sixteenth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my seventeenth son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my eighteenth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my nineteenth son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my twentieth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; 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and whereas, my one hundred and fifty-fifth son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and fifty-sixth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and fifty-seventh son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and fifty-eighth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and fifty-ninth son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and sixtieth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and sixty-first son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and sixty-second son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and sixty-third son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and sixty-fourth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and sixty-fifth son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and sixty-sixth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and sixty-seventh son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and sixty-eighth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and sixty-ninth son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and seventieth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and seventy-first son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and seventy-second son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and seventy-third son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and seventy-fourth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and seventy-fifth son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and seventy-sixth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and seventy-seventh son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and seventy-eighth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and seventy-ninth son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and eightieth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and eighty-first son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and eighty-second son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and eighty-third son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and eighty-fourth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and eighty-fifth son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and eighty-sixth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and eighty-seventh son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and eighty-eighth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and eighty-ninth son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and ninetieth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and ninety-first son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and ninety-second son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and ninety-third son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and ninety-fourth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and ninety-fifth son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and ninety-sixth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and ninety-seventh son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and ninety-eighth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my one hundred and ninety-ninth son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundredth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and first son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and second son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and third son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and fourth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and fifth son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and sixth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and seventh son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and eighth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and ninth son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and tenth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and eleventh son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and twelfth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and thirteenth son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and fourteenth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and fifteenth son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and sixteenth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and seventeenth son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and eighteenth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and nineteenth son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and twentieth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and twenty-first son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and twenty-second son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and twenty-third son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and twenty-fourth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and twenty-fifth son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and twenty-sixth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and twenty-seventh son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and twenty-eighth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and twenty-ninth son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and thirtieth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and thirty-first son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and thirty-second son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and thirty-third son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and thirty-fourth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and thirty-fifth son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and thirty-sixth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and thirty-seventh son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and thirty-eighth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and thirty-ninth son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and fortieth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and forty-first son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and forty-second son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; 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and whereas, my two hundred and fifty-second son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and fifty-third son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and fifty-fourth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and fifty-fifth son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and fifty-sixth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and fifty-seventh son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and fifty-eighth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and fifty-ninth son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and sixtieth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and sixty-first son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and sixty-second son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and sixty-third son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and sixty-fourth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and sixty-fifth son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and sixty-sixth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and sixty-seventh son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and sixty-eighth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and sixty-ninth son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and seventieth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and seventy-first son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and seventy-second son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and seventy-third son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and seventy-fourth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and seventy-fifth son, James, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and seventy-sixth son, John, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and seventy-seventh son, William, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate; and whereas, my two hundred and seventy-eighth son, Charles, has been a dissolute and profligate, and has squandered my estate